

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 03963 050923Z

20

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /045 W

----- 004708

P R 031412Z APR 75 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3951

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 3963

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE OF SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN

REF: ADDIS ABABA 3902

1. FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE DAY, ETHIOPIAN PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION HAVE BEEN GIVING PROMINENT COVERAGE OF ACTIVITIES OF MAJOR ATNAFU ABATE, SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN OF PROVISIONAL MILITARY COUNCIL (PMAC).

2. TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY (APRIL 1-3) EDITIONS OF ENGLISH AND AMHARIC DAILIES CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORIES OF MAJ. ATNAFU'S VISITS TO VARIOUS HOSPITALS IN CAPITAL CITY.

3. VISITS WERE ALSO FEATURED AS LEAD ITEMS ON RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWSCASTS DURING SAME PERIOD.

COMMENT

INORDINATE AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY CONCERNING RATHER INNOCUOUS HOSPITAL VISITS BY MAJ. ATNAFU APPEARS TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL OVERTONES. UP TO THIS POINT, PUBLICIZING INDIVIDUAL PMAC MEMBERS, INCLUDING CHAIRMAN GENERAL TEFERI BENTI, HAS BEEN SUBDUED AND CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED. ON ONLY RARE OCCASIONS HAVE MEMBERS OF "BIG THREE" -- MAJ. MENGISTU (FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN), MAJ. ATNAFU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 03963 050923Z

AND GEN TEFERI -- BEEN FEATURED IN THE MEDIA INDIVIDUALLY.

USUAL PROCEDURE HAS BEEN TO SHOW ALL THREE MEMBERS OF PMAC TOGETHER AND COVERAGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN LOW KEY. MAJ. MENGISTU, WHO UP UNTIL A WEEK AGO WAS "STRONGMAN" OF PMAC, HAS BEEN CONSPICUOUS BY HIS ABSENCE FROM PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT IN RECENT DAYS. UNCONFIRMED RUMORS, WHICH ARE BEING WIDELY CIRCULATED, CLAIM VARIOUSLY HE HAS BEEN ARRESTED, IS BEING HELD IN ASMARA, IS IN ERITREA DIRECTING FIELD OPERATIONS AGAINST THE INSURGENTS, AND WORKING NORMALLY IN ADDIS. WHATEVER MENGISTU'S CURRENT STATUS, HOWEVER, SUDDEN SPLASH OF PUBLICITY BEING FOCUSED ON MAJOR ATNAFU MARKS SHARP DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS PMAC POLICY CONCERNING "GLORIFICATION" OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.

DECONTROL APRIL 3, 1976.

CARROL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HOSPITALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS03963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750118-0761
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750487/aaaadbz.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ADDIS ABABA 3902
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA COVERAGE OF SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN
TAGS: PINT, ET, (ATNAFU ABATE)
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006